

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY WARSAW PRIORITY
INFO AMCONSUL POZNAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 040741

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CIVS, CSCE, SHUM, SCUL, PL, US

SUBJECT: DENIAL OF POLISH VISAS TO AMERICANS

1. MARTIN AND RENA WANCJER ON FEBRUARY 10 APPLIED TO THE POLISH CONSULATE IN CHICAGO FOR VISAS TO VISIT HER FATHER, MAURZYCY NEBEL, WHO IS CRITICALLY ILL IN WROCLAW; ALTHOUGH THIS APPLICATION IS STILL PENDING, MARTIN HAS BEEN DENIED PREVIOUS REQUESTS FOR VISAS, AND HE SAYS THE POLISH CONSUL IN CHICAGO ADVISED HIM ON A PRELIMINARY BASIS THAT THEY COULD PROBABLY NOT OBTAIN VISAS UNLESS RENA'S FATHER ACTUALLY DIED. THE WANCJER'S HAVE A TELEGRAM, ENDORSED BY A DOCTOR, DESCRIBING THE FATHER'S CONDITION AS CRITICAL.

2. CONSUL PILAT AT THE POLISH EMBASSY ASSURED US HE WOULD URGE THE CHICAGO CONSULATE TO EXPEDITE THE APPLICATION, AND PILAT HAS CONFIRMED THAT HE DID SO. HE INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT THE AUTHORITIES IN WARSAW WOULD PROBABLY WANT TO VERIFY THE FATHER'S CONDITION AND THIS WOULD TAKE TIME.
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PILAT MADE NO COMMITMENT BUT INDICATED THE CONSULATE HAD RECOMMENDED FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION OF THE APPLICATION BY WARSAW.

3. WANCJER SAID HE LEFT POLAND IN 1968 AND RENOUNCED HIS CITIZENSHIP AS MOST JEWS WERE REQUIRED TO DO AT THE TIME.

HE HAS BECOME AN AMERICAN CITIZEN. RENA LEFT POLAND IN 1969 AND ALSO RENOUNCED POLISH CITIZENSHIP, BUT SHE IS NOT YET AN AMERICAN CITIZEN. SHE TRAVELS ON A RE-ENTRY PERMIT AND ACTUALLY VISITED POLAND ABOUT FIVE MONTHS AGO, ALTHOUGH MARTIN SUSPECTS SHE GOT HER VISA INADVERTENTLY.

4. MARTIN WANCJER BELIEVES HIS INABILITY TO GET A POLISH VISA IN THE PAST RESULTS FROM SOME BAR AGAINST JEWS WHO HAVE LEFT POLAND. HE IS THE FIRST PERSON IN THIS KIND OF SITUATION TO MENTION THIS. HE IS UNDERSTANDABLY OUTRAGED AT THE THOUGHT AND WANTS VERY MUCH FOR HIS WIFE TO BE ABLE TO VISIT HER FATHER. IF ONE OF THEM IS DENIED AND THE OTHER APPROVED, THE LATTER WOULD GO ALONE. MARTIN CONTEMPLATES A VISIT OF TWO TO THREE WEEKS, AND HE DOUBTS THAT THE POLES WOULD GRANT PERMISSION FOR A LONGER STAY.

5. BESIDES ASKING PILAT'S ASSISTANCE, WE DISCUSSED THIS GENERAL QUESTION AT LENGTH WITH FIRST SECRETARY DUCHOWSKI ON FEBRUARY 14, WITH PASSING REFERENCE TO THE WANCJER CASE. WHILE PROFESSING IGNORANCE OF DETAILS, DUCHOWSKI INDICATED THAT POLISH LAW BARS RETURN VISITS TO PEOPLE WHO HAVE FORESAKEN POLAND. WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THE HUMAN RIGHTS AND HELSINKI IMPLICATIONS, DUCHOWSKI MAINTAINED SUCH A POLICY IS NECESSARY TO DISCOURAGE EMIGRATION OF OTHERS. HE READILY ADMITTED THE DIFFICULTIES THIS COULD

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POSE FOR POLAND IN TERMS OF ITS IMAGE AMONG AMERICANS, HOWEVER, AND OPINED THAT AUTHORITIES IN WARSAW SHOULD BE MORE FLEXIBLE.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: THE EMBASSY SHOULD RAISE THIS CASE WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ON AN URGENT BASIS TO REQUEST SPEEDY AND FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION OF THE WANCJERS' VISA APPLICATIONS. STRESS THE HUMANITARIAN NATURE OF THE REQUEST AND DESCRIBE IT IN TERMS OF A FAMILY VISIT UNDER THE CSCE RUBRIC. YOU MAY ALSO POINT OUT THAT THERE IS CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST (SENATOR RIEGLE).

7. AT THE SAME TIME, YOU MIGHT ALSO ASK ABOUT THE TWO CASES RAISED PREVIOUSLY--JULIA ZIEMECKI AND DR. AND MRS. ANDRZEJ SZECHTER--BOTH OF WHICH ARE ALSO URGENT. VANCE

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